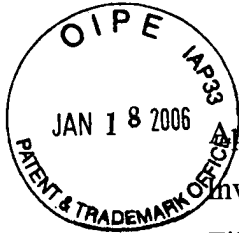


01-19-06

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/823,856 Confirmation No. 6187
Inventors : Oleg S. FISHMAN et al.
Filed : April 14, 2004
TC/A.U. : Art Unit 3742
Examiner : Tu Ba HOANG
Docket No. : 1946-010US
Customer No. : 31855
Title : DIRECTIONAL SOLIDIFICATION OF A METAL

AMENDMENT/REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

To the Commissioner for Patents:

This reply is in response to the non-final Office action mailed July 18, 2005, and is being filed within three months (January 18, 2006) after the 3-month shortened statutory period for reply. The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 502435 (Indel, Inc.) for the 37 CFR 1.17(a)(3) \$1,020.00 three-month extension fee, and any other fee associated with filing this response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2; **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL (37 CFR 1.10)

EXPRESS MAIL Mailing Label No. **ED 731791793 US** Date of Deposit: **January 18, 2006**

I hereby certify that this paper, any papers referenced therein, and fee payments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature Brandi Principe Printed Name: **Brandi Principe**